

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Bowlin et al.

Serial No. 09/714,255

Filed: November 17, 2000

For: Electroprocessed Collagen

Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: Phan, Hieu

T.H.
12-3-02
#14/Electro

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

DEC - 2 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 24, 2002, in the above-identified patent application, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, Claims 1-4 and 24-27. Claims 5-18, are not assigned to a class. Applicants assert that Claims 5-18 should be examined along with Group I. To the extent that the Restriction Requirement purports to assign Claims 5-18 to a group other than Group I, applicants respectfully transverse.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 5-18, which are not assigned to a group in the Restriction Requirement, should be assigned to Group I because it will not be a serious or undue burden on the Examiner to examine those claims along with claims of Group I.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on November 22, 2002.

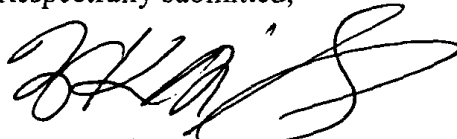

William K. McGreevey - Reg. No. 52,012

Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider the Restriction Requirement and include Claims 5-18 in Group I for further prosecution in this case.

The Restriction Requirement characterizes the Group I claims as "drawn to a leather product." Applicants wish to clarify that Claims 1-4 are not limited to manufactured leather or leather products. Rather, Claims 1-4 are drawn to any type of electroprocessed collagen, irrespective of whether it is a leather product.

This Response to the Restriction Requirement is fully responsive and timely filed in view of the concurrently filed Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time and the required fee. No additional fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies which may be required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 11-0855. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing remarks such action is courteously solicited. Applicants further request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if any questions arise concerning this Response to the Restriction Requirement. The telephone number for the undersigned attorney is (404) 745-2494.

Respectfully submitted,



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